

B-3028 - B-3035
740-720 Light St. (West side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private access

1860-1884

This group of three story high, two bay wide brick buildings with shed roofs and Italianate-style bracketed cornices was built by several different builders in the early 1860's and in the 1880's (734-740 Light St.) The 1860's houses at the northern end of the block were built to serve a combined residential/commercial function and the original storefronts are still intact at 720-722, 724, and 726 Light St. 734-740 Light St. were built as residences but 740 has most recently served as a local bar/restaurant. The houses are currently unoccupied, but have recently been sold by the city to private owners and are awaiting renovation and rehabilitation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3030
MAGI 0430302604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

734 Light St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

—PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

—OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: restoration
contemplated

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mayor and City Council

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE

zip code

21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

Maryland

STATE

21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

___EXCELLENT
___GOOD
___FAIR

☒DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒UNALTERED
___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story, two bay brick house with shed roof was built in the early 1880's as part of a group of such houses extending from 734 to 740 Light St. This is the only house of the group remaining in original condition.

The house is three stories in height, 13' wide, and occupies a lot 72' deep. The house is one room deep and there is a three story high, one bay wide and deep stair hall extension which connects the main house to a two story high, four bay deep rear addition which has a projecting second story frame bathroom addition which extends out over the rear yard, supported on wooden posts. The house is constructed in running bond. The shed roof was capped by a bracketed cornice which is now missing, but which presumably resembled the cornice at 740 Light St. This latter is constructed of stamped sheet metal and consists of a crown molding set above a row of dentils and a molding strip. It is supported by three grooved brackets which connect it to a lower molding strip, thus forming a brick freize. There is a double rectangular chimney located along the north side of the main section of the house.

The doorway, and the second and third floor window openings have segmental arched brick lintels. The first floor window opening has a round arched lintel and stone sill. The other window openings have wood sills. All of the window openings are currently empty or boarded but were probably originally fitted with 1/1 sash. The doorway is boarded. The entrance is reached by four wide stone steps. A rectangular basement window opening, divided into two lights, is located to the right of the steps.

This house, along with its neighbors 736-738 Light St. (and originally 740 Light St.) shows a typical floor plan of the Victorian era. There is one deep front room with fireplace (15' deep, 11 1/2' wide) which opens into a stair hall with its own outside door leading to the alley. Beyond the stair hall there are two rooms, opening from one into the other, each measuring about 9' wide by 14' deep. The room arrangement of the second floor is exactly the same as that on the first floor, with the stairs winding up in the center of the house. The second floor front bedroom also has a fireplace. The third floor has only one room, in the front of the house. The ceiling height of the first floor main room of these houses is unusually high, measuring 10'. The two rooms in the rear addition on the first floor have 8 1/2' ceilings; on the second floor the bedrooms in the rear addition only have 7'3" ceilings, while the front room has an 8 1/2' ceiling. The third floor room, which has a ceiling which slopes back with the angle of the shed roof, has an 8' high ceiling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-3030

PERIOD**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bernard Harig and Thomas Hughes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, along with its neighbors 736-738 Light St. which were built at the same time, is significant as being representative of a fairly small group of three story Victorian-style houses build in the Federal Hill area after the Civil War to serves as residences only. Such houses were built to accomodate the rising number of middle-class residents in the area who had prospered at local trades and businesses to the point where they could afford a large house with some stylistic pretensions.

The houses replaced earlier two story gable roofed structures built on this site before 1820 by Peter Gold, who developed this side of Light St. The current structures seem to have been built by the trustees of Gold's estate. Bernard Harig was Gold's grandson. The houses remained in the Harig family until 1919.¹

The houses are currently being offered for sale by the City to private owners and will hopefully soon be renovated. The houses have much of their interior woodwork intact. The door and window frames have wide, beaded moldings with late bull's-eye corner blocks on the lintels.

Baltimore City Land Records, Liber SCL 3486, Folio 185

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

DATE

5/79

STREET & NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

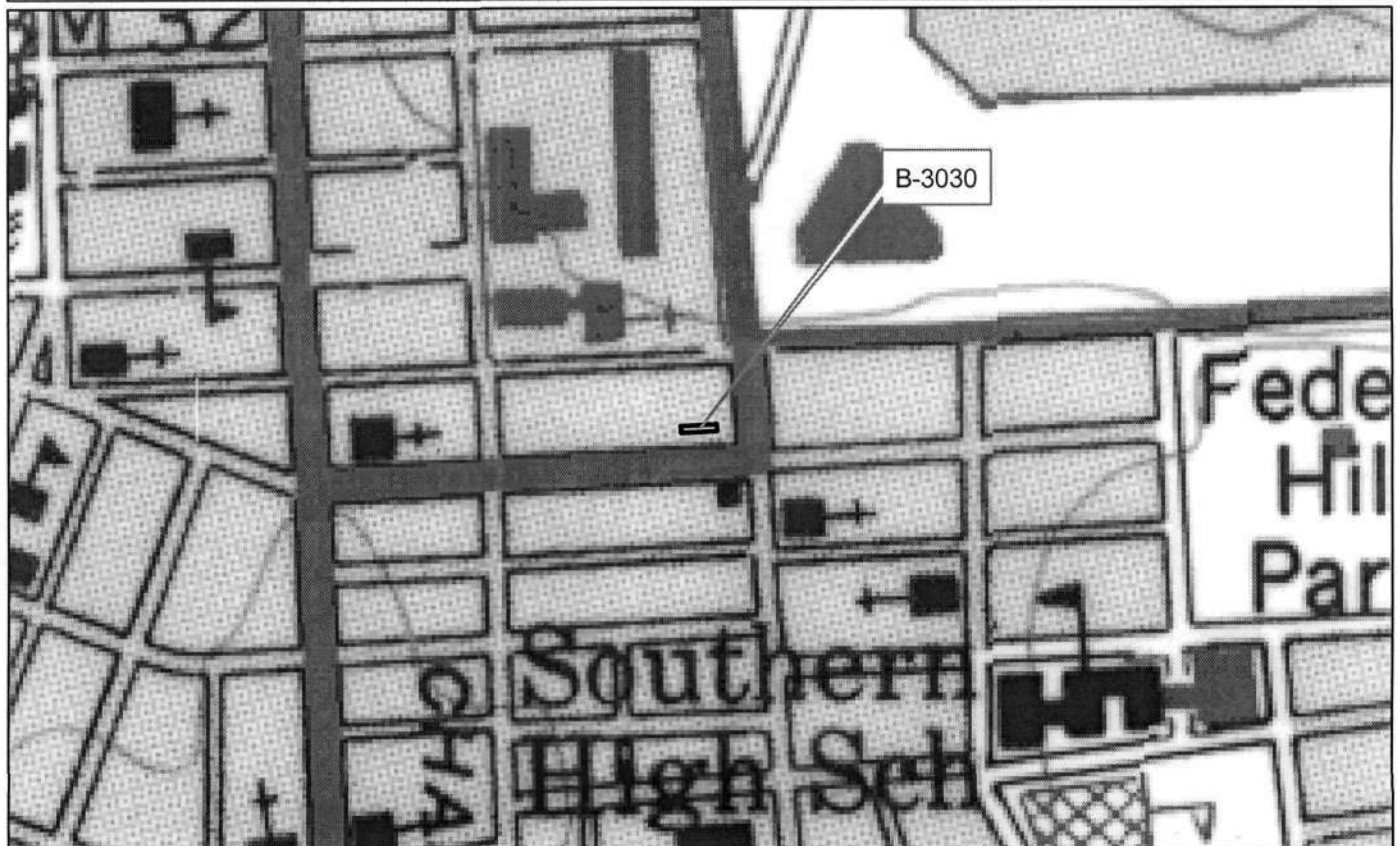
Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

B-3030
734 Light Street
Block 0896 Lots 004
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3030

734 Light St.

M.E.H.

6/79

East elevation